

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: EDITOR TAXES GREEKS FOR PRESENT PROBLEMS

REF: THESSALONIKI'S 446

1. WHILE ITS CHIEF EDITOR, ELIAS KYROU, CONTINUED TO COMPOSE DAILY VARIATIONS ON FAMILIAR THEME OF ANGLO-AMERICAN GUILT FOR GREECE'S CURRENT WOES (REFTEL) "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" PUBLISHED FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL AUGUST 7, CONTENDING GREEKS SHOULD BLAME THEMSELVES AND THEIR LEADERSHIP FOR PRESENT AND PAST PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN "FOREIGNERS"9

2. WRITTEN BY ASSOCIATE EDITOR NICOLAOS MERTZOS, ARTICLE SAYS THAT FROM START OF DECLINE OF BYZANTINE EMPIRE, GREECE'S FATE DETERMINED BY "WILLS OF FOREIGNERS". SINCE THEN "FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION" GREEKS MAKE SAME MISTAKE OF BELIEVING THAT SENTIMENT, RATHER THAN POWER AND SELF-INTEREST, DETERMINES INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL POLICIES TOWARDS GREECE, WRITES MERTZOS.

3. HE CHARGES THAT IN MODERN TIMES, WHETHER DURING GERMAN OCCUPATION, CIVIL WAR, OR FIGHTING IN CYPRUS, GREEKS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSISTENTLY BLAMED "THE FOREIGNERS" FOR DEATH AND

DESTRUCTION, ONLY THEIR NATIONALITIES CHANGING NOW AND THEN. TIME HAS COME TO "FACE REALITY, FACE OURSELVES, TO PUT OUR FINGER ON THE REAL PROBLEM" WHICH IS, IF GREECE HAD LEADERSHIP PROPORTIONATE TO GREATNESS OF GREEK NATION IT WOULD NOT BE "TRAPPED BY FOREIGNERS". "IF WE WERE DECEIVED BY AMERICANS, AS IS SAID TODAY, THEY WERE DOING THEIR JOB, AND HOW DID WE PERMIT OURSELVES TO BE DUPED?" UNTIL GREECE HAS ITS OWN "SELF-SUSTAINING, SELF-CONFIDENT LEADERSHIP, NOT APPOINTED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM OUTSIDE," TREACHERY OF GREAT POWERS WILL CONTINUE TO FILL TRAGIC PAGES OF GREEK HISTORY, MERTZOS CONCLUDES, "BUT LET US NOT BLAME THE FOREIGNERS".

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH XENOPHOBIC FLAVOR REMAINS, ARTICLE PROVIDES SOME RELIEF FROM VORRAS' STRAIGHT EDITORIAL FARE OF PAST FEW WEEKS CHARGING US AND UK COLLUSION WITH TURKS, AND APPEARS TO INITIATE SOME ELEMENTARY SOUL-SEARCHING AS TO HOW GREECE ARRIVED IN ITS PRESENT SITUATION. THIS OF SOME POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE IN VIEW VORRAS' REPUTED CLOSE TIES AND INFLUENCE WITH ACTIVE GREEK ARMY OFFICER GROUPS IN UPPER-MIDDLE GRADES.
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